

# REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



**To:** MAYOR & COUNCIL

**Agenda Item #:** VIII. F.

**From:** James Hovland  
Mayor

**Action**

**Discussion**

**Date:** March 19, 2013

**Information**

**Subject:** Resolution No. 2013-30 In Support Of A Metropolitan Area Dedicate Transit Sales Tax

**Action Requested:**

Adopt Resolution.

**Information / Background:**

Mayor Hovland will be presenting this resolution requested by the Regional Conference of Mayor. The resolution supports a sales tax increase to support sustained investment to building out and operate the metropolitan region's transit system.

**Attachment:**

Resolution No. 2013-30  
Draft Letter To Speaker Thissen  
Regional Transit System Map

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-30**

**IN SUPPORT OF A**

**METROPOLITAN AREA DEDICATED TRANSIT SALES TAX**

**WHEREAS**, the Seven County Metropolitan Area (“Metro”) is the economic engine for the State of Minnesota producing approximately 75% of the state’s domestic gross product; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metro is expected to grow by approximately 600,000 people by 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metro has been working diligently to grow, retain and attract jobs for our state economy; and

**WHEREAS**, an effective and efficient transportation system is critical to be able to economically compete with other regions in the country and to attract new companies and employees to our Metro region; and

**WHEREAS**, an effective and efficient transit system relieves congestion for highway and roadway users, attracts new economic investments, provides an essential mobility infrastructure for workers, businesses and students; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 79% of Minnesotans believe our state would benefit from having an expanded and improved public transit system; and 65% of Minnesotans support an increase in the Metro area sales tax to fund transit.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL** of the City of Edina does hereby encourage all Minnesota legislators to support the passage of a bill providing for a Metro wide increase in the sales tax in order to create a reliable and sufficient transit funding source that not only keeps the Twin Cities Metropolitan Region highly competitive with other regions but helps Minnesota create a world class transportation system that will allow our state to compete more effectively on a global scale and reach our full economic development potential.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of Edina this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra A. Mangen, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
James B. Hovland, Mayor

STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN) SS  
CITY OF EDINA )

**CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK**

I, the undersigned duly appointed and acting City Clerk for the City of Edina do hereby certify that the attached and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Edina City Council at its Regular Meeting of March 19, 2013, and as recorded in the Minutes of said Regular Meeting.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said City this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

Debra A. Mangen, Edina City Clerk



Majority Leader Thomas Bakk  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Capitol, Room 226  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Speaker Paul Thissen  
463 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Proposed regional sales tax for transit

Dear Majority Leader Bakk and Speaker Thissen:

Please see the attached list of members of the Regional Council of Mayors who are in support of a sales tax increase to support sustained investment to build out and operate the metropolitan region's transit system as defined by the Governor's Transportation Finance Advisory Committee.

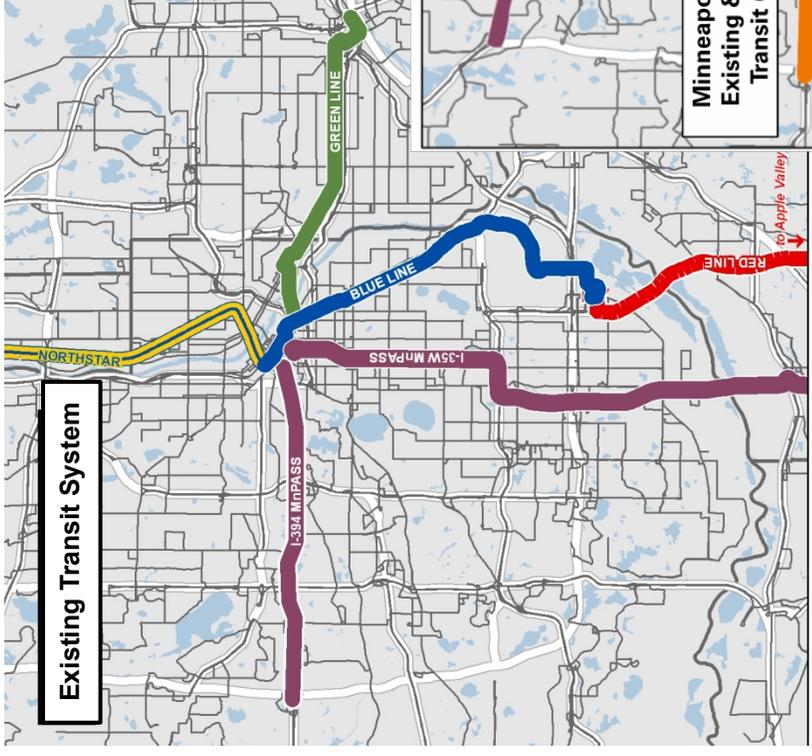
The Regional Council of Mayors was formed in 2005 and provides a non-partisan platform focused on building action strategies to raise the region's overall economic competitiveness and quality of life.

The Regional Council of Mayors believes that the development of a competitive regional transit system is key to our region's long-term economic competitiveness and vitality. The development of a complete and multi-modal transit system is necessary for all of our communities to provide essential mobility, relieve congestion, attract new investment, and create jobs for all Minnesotans.

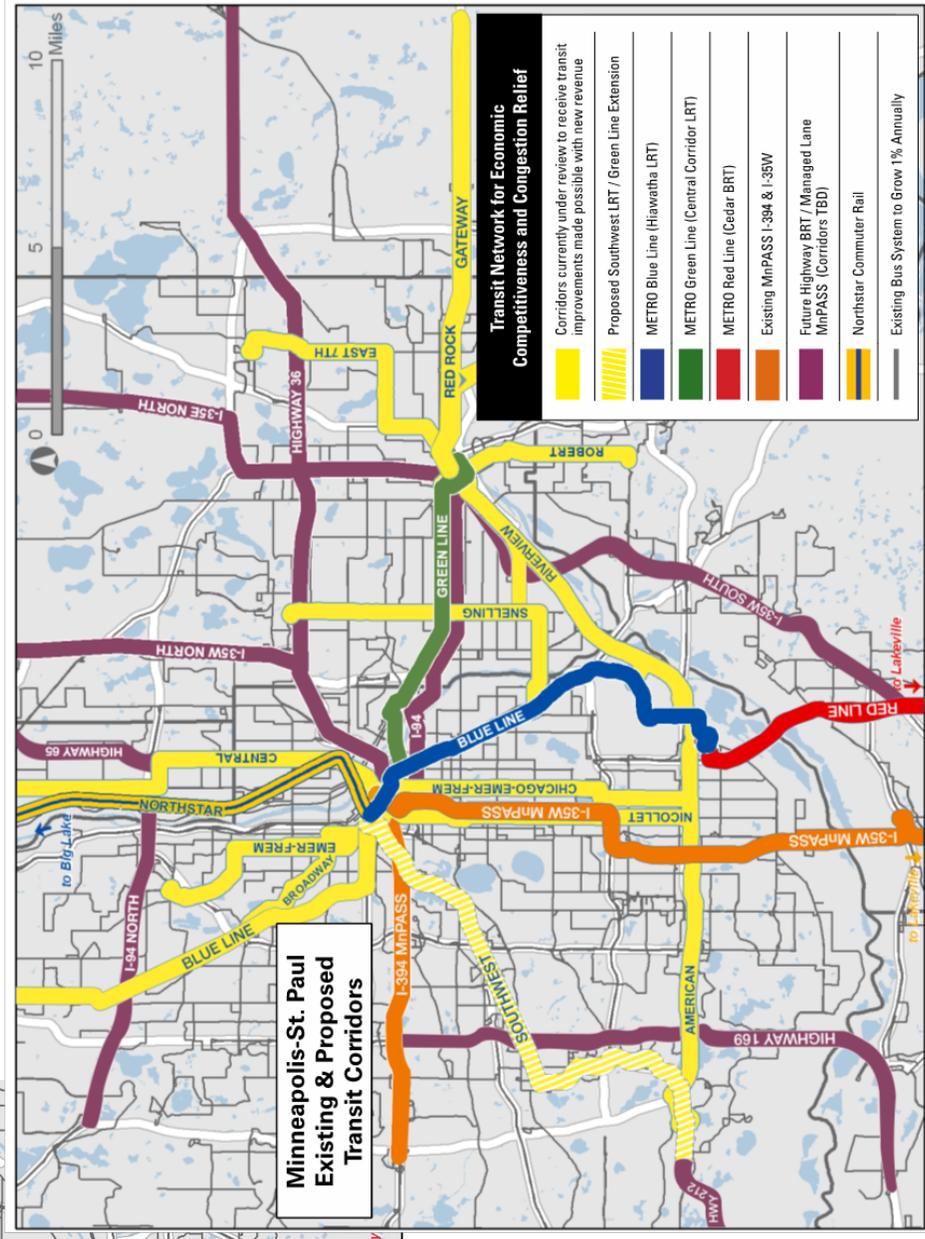
We represent a diverse set of municipalities from across the region, each with its own character and needs. Across that diversity, we understand that the health and prosperity of our communities is linked to that of the region. By investing in our regional transit infrastructure, the Governor's plan will help maintain our region's economic competitiveness and allow our towns and cities to thrive. Indeed, a recent study by the Itasca Project, an organization led by some of the region's leading CEOs, confirms the importance of investing in transit to the region's economy. It found that building out the region's transit network would create a return on investment of between \$6.5 and \$13.9 billion, or between 7.8% and 20.9%.

We believe the Governor's proposal represents an opportunity that our region cannot afford to pass up. We urge you to join us in supporting that proposal to help fund the investments that our region needs to thrive.

Cc: Representative Hornstein, Representative Erhardt, Senator Dibble



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 into this competitive economic engine. Visit  
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